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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/021,843

12/13/2001

Raj Bridgelall

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05/17/2006

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EXAMINER

LE, UYEN CHAU N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/021,843

Applicant(s)

BRIDGELALL, RAJ

Examiner

Uyen-Chau N. Le

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 14-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 14-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

Art Unit: 2876

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Requesting Continued Examination (RCE)***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Requesting Continued Examination (RCE) field 04/25/2006.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-9 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schultz et al (US 5,280,159) in view of McAllister et al (US 6517000 B1).

Re claims 1-9 and 14-19: Schultz et al discloses an RF tag reader 10, which serves as a RFID extension for a mobile computer 30 lacking RFID functionality, comprising a battery 15 (fig. 5; col. 2, lines 64+); circuitry coupled to the battery 15 for providing the RFID functionality (col. 2, line 68 through col. 3, line 13); a first modular attachment interface 24 selectively coupling to a second modular attachment interface 24 of the mobile computer 30 to

Art Unit: 2876

the circuitry/reader 10 such that the mobile computer 30 has access to the RFID functionality provided by the circuitry/reader 10 when the mobile computer 30 is coupled to the modular attachment interface 24 (fig. 10; col. 3, lines 14-48 and col. 4, lines 3-16); a barcode scanner 40 coupled to the second modular attachment interface 44 such that the mobile computer 30 has access to data encoded in a barcode symbol scanned by the barcode scanner 40 when the mobile computer 30 is coupled to the modular interface 44 (fig. 10; col. 3, lines 14-48 and col. 4, lines 3-16); wherein the circuitry for providing the RFID functionality further comprises an electromagnetic transceiver (col. 3, lines 1-14 and lines 35-40); wherein the circuitry for providing the RFID functionality further comprises a RFID tag air interface decoder (i.e., encoded data from transponder 21 received by an antenna 18 via an air interface) (col. 3, line 42-48); a wired network; an access point for transmitting transmission data from the wired network to the mobile computer 30 via a wireless medium and receiving reception data from the mobile computer 30 to the wired network via the wireless medium and also for forming a transmission area that includes space where association to the access point is possible by the mobile computer 30 (i.e., the received data can be stored at the mobile computer 30, processed and transmitted wirelessly via antenna 33 to any desired access points) (col. 3, lines 45-48).

Art Unit: 2876

Schultz et al is silent with respect to the circuit including at least one of an electromagnetic transceiver and a RFID air interface decoder.

McAllister et al teaches an RFID system typically employs at least two components, a "transponder" or "tag," which is attached to the physical item to be identified, and a reader," which sends an electromagnetic signal to the transponder and then detects a response (i.e., via an electromagnetic transceiver). Typically, the reader emits a RF signal, which is received by the transponder, after the transponder comes within an appropriate range. In response, the transponder then sends its information via a modulated RF signal back to the reader. The reader detects this modulated signal, and can identify the transponder by decoding the modulated signal (i.e., via a decoder which serves as an air decoder). After identifying the transponder, the reader can either store the decoded information or transmit the decoded signal to a computer (col. 2, lines 14-46).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate electromagnetic transceiver and a RFID air interface decoder of McAllister et al into the system of Schultz et al in order to provide Schultz et al with the ability to decode the received signal

Art Unit: 2876

instantaneously within the tag reader, which can provide a real-time reading result system.

***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed 04/25/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

6. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., an electromagnetic receiver and a RFID air interface decoder within a RFID extension) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Art Unit: 2876

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen-Chau N. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2397. The examiner can normally be reached on maxi-flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Uyen-Chau N. Le  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2876

May 15, 2006